

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) has written to Veterans Administration (VA) Secretary Eric Shinseki urging him to work with Congress on legislation to improve health care for veterans by advance funding the VA budget.

“The VA has only received one on-time budget in the past 12 years,” wrote Buchanan. “Unpredictable and inadequate funding of health care for our veterans is simply unacceptable. The solution is to advance fund the VA’s budget, requiring Congress to approve a budget a year ahead of time to ensure a smooth operation of the nation’s largest integrated healthcare system.”

Buchanan has cosponsored the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (H.R. 1016) to provide advance appropriations and ensure the 97,000 veterans in Florida’s 13th District receive the best quality health care they have earned and deserve.

“As you know, all too often in the past, funding for the VA has been approved so late in the appropriations process that it has jeopardized the delivery of quality care to our veterans,” wrote Buchanan. “HR 1016 would give the VA enough time to plan how to deliver the most efficient and effective care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.”